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PLEASE EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF YOUR STAFF INVOLVED IN
COVERAGE OF MOSCOW AND IN HANDLING REPORTING ON THE RECENT EVENTS
SURROUNDING THE CHERNENKO DEATH AND GORBACHEV SUCCESSION. ALTHOUGH
THERE WAS NO LACK OF OFFICIAL REPORTING, I THINK BBC DID AN EXCELLENT
JOB IN WATCHING THE MEDIA BEHAVIOR AND IN REPORTING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS
PROMPTLY AND ACCURATELY. THE FACT THAT WE GOT NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS
FROM OUR OFFICIAL CONSUMERS BEFORE THE DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES
TO ME THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RELY HEAVILY ON OUR
REPORTING FROM THE MEDIA (AND MEDIA BEHAVIOR REPORTS) IN CIRCUMSTANCES
SUCH AS THESE, AND I THINK BBC DID ITSELF PROUD IN THIS COVERAGE. THE
MONITORING SERVICE VERY MUCH CAME THROUGH FOR US AND ONCE AGAIN HAS
DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF SOVIET MEDIA REPORTING. OUR HIGH LEVEL
CONSUMERS WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE. [REDACTED]

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